



FOCUS

SPRING 2009

REPORT FROM CITY HALL

San Bruno City Council

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Vice Mayor

Jim Ruane

Councilmembers

Ken Ibarra

Irene O'Connell

Rico E. Medina

City Manager

Connie Jackson

City Clerk

Carol Bonner

City Treasurer

John Marty

City of San Bruno

Online Address:

www.sanbruno.ca.gov

We welcome your comments.

Please call Terry Jackson at (650) 616-7013, or email her at tjackson@sanbruno.ca.gov.

JOIN US FOR POLICE RECOGNITION DAY!

The San Bruno Police Department, in conjunction with The Shops at Tanforan and the San Bruno Citizens Crime Prevention Committee, is once again holding the popular Police Recognition Day. The event will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2009, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., at The Shops at Tanforan, 1150 El Camino Real, San Bruno.

This will be the 27th year that the San Bruno Police Department has hosted this event.

Police Recognition Day is held during National Police Week, which honors law enforcement officers killed or disabled while serving their communities. The theme of the event is crime prevention and public education. As in years past, we expect this exciting event to draw many visitors from San Bruno and neighboring cities.

The event will feature police vehicles and equipment on display from many different local police agencies. Police officers will be on hand to answer questions and provide crime prevention tips and information on law enforcement career opportunities. Police canine handlers will also provide demonstrations that showcase the talents of their canine partners and how well they work together.

Police Recognition Day is a great opportunity to meet and greet the officers that proudly serve your community, and you can pick up some crime prevention tips during your visit. For further information on the event, contact Corporal Mark Phillips, Support and Community Services Division, at (650) 616-7116.



Online Registration has launched for Parks & Recreation!

San Bruno Parks & Recreation Services is proud to announce a new online registration service (Spring 2009). The online network will benefit the San Bruno community in a host of ways.

One of the benefits is to make it easier for community members to sign up for recreation classes, programs, and more! The faster, convenient service is available 24 hours a day. This allows prospective participants to secure their recreation pastimes for themselves or their children without waiting in line, especially during the busy summer months.

Automatic confirmation is sent to the participant via e-mail confirmation. Also, the participant can reprint historical receipts, especially during the time when

receipts may be needed for tax purposes.

Users are assured that their credit card transactions will be processed in a safe and secure manner at all times.

Parks & Recreation staff are pleased to provide this benefit to the community as a way to enhance participation and, furthermore, a way to increase visibility of the City's programs and classes.

Register by visiting the Department's website at www.sanbruno.ca.gov or go directly to the Internet registration site: activenet.active.com/sanbrunorecreation

Sign Up Today!

Federal Stimulus Package: POTENTIAL BENEFIT FOR SAN BRUNO

With the passage of the 2009 Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the City is doing all that it can to secure funding for much-needed capital improvement projects. San Bruno has applied for road improvement funding and recently submitted applications to acquire funding for a variety of water and sewer projects.

Street paving. While there are many road segments in need of rehabilitation, Caltrans, the State agency responsible for administering the highway funds, will only distribute ARRA highway funding to those roads designated as Federal-aid highways. Although that narrows the selection criteria quite a bit, the City identified sections of City Park Way (between Bayview Avenue and Crystal Springs Road) and Crestwood Drive (between Rollingwood and Valleywood Drives) as those in need of rehabilitation.



Water and wastewater projects. Instead of an allocation of dollars to cities with “shovel-ready” projects like the highway funding portion of the ARRA, funds for water and wastewater projects will be distributed through the State Revolving Fund Loan Program. Not surprisingly, the biggest difference with the loan program is that some or all of the funding disbursed may be in the form of a low-interest loan—something not easily obtained in today’s private credit market. San Bruno has the opportunity to receive funding due to ARRA’s emphasis on ready-to-construct projects. The City’s Public Services Department has identified several main replacement and pump station rehabilitation projects as possible candidates for funding. Any funding awards will be posted on our website as soon as we are notified.



Planning for San Bruno’s Future

The State of California requires that each city prepare a “General Plan.” This long-term plan creates the vision for the physical and economic development of a city. Typically, this plan creates a vision for a ten- to twenty-year period, and all future decisions related to private developments and public projects must be consistent with the adopted plan. San Bruno has been in the process of updating the General Plan for several years. This process included extensive public outreach, the appointment of a General Plan Update Committee, and Planning Commission and City Council workshops. The result is an exciting new plan, which will guide San Bruno for years to come. The new plan was approved by the City Council on March 24, 2009.

The City’s new General Plan promotes balanced development, outlines strategies for conserving

established neighborhoods, and creates programs that attract new businesses while retaining existing ones. The plan encourages mixed-use and multi-family housing around the future Caltrain station, on San Mateo Avenue, and along El Camino Real. The General Plan not only focuses on automobile-related traffic improvements, but also outlines policies which will create better pedestrian and bicycle movement. The plan protects all existing open space within the City and preserves the opportunity for 20 new acres of parks over the next 20 years.

The policies above are just a few of hundreds of policies found within the new General Plan. To view the entire plan, you can stop by the Community Development Department or the San Bruno Library or download a copy at <http://sanbruno.ca.gov/gpupdate.html>. If you have any questions, or would like to know how this plan affects your property, please call Aaron Aknin, Community Development Director at (650) 616-7039.

Downtown and Transit Corridors Plan Community Workshop to be held on May 16, 2009

Get involved in the Downtown and Transit Corridors Plan to help improve the downtown and surrounding area and develop a plan for the future that will encourage the use of transit rather than automobiles. Most of all, help plan for a downtown area that all residents of San Bruno can use and be proud of.

The first of three community workshops for the Downtown and Transit Corridors Plan was held on January 21, 2009, at the Senior Center and was a great success, with lots of positive, creative, and enthusiastic energy! About 90 residents, employees, community organization leaders, business and property owners met to share ideas and craft a vision for the area.

The workshop divided into small groups to discuss a vision for the transit corridors area, imagining what it could look like ten years in the future. Each group shared their ideas with the larger audience, which included: create a strong identity and community pride for the downtown area, establish an economic development strategy to revitalize downtown and attract quality businesses, and plan for development that takes advantage of transit opportunities (bus routes, BART, and new Caltrain station). One group suggested transforming Downtown San Bruno into an "International Green Village" with diversity and regional appeal for families and visitors. Many participants were open to the idea of increasing the building heights in key areas such as around the future Caltrain station.



Now that a broad vision has been developed and is refined, the next phases of the planning process will encourage residents to roll up their sleeves and figure out how to best implement the vision. To that end, a second community workshop will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2009, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the First Tongan United Methodist Church, 560 El Camino Real in San Bruno. This workshop will include a walking tour of the area and a hands-on session to brainstorm and discuss some of the most viable strategies to include in the plan.

A summary of the community workshop, background information, a library of documents, and information about upcoming events is available on the project website: www.sanbrunotransitcorridorsplan.org. Bookmark the page and check back often, as the page will be updated frequently. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Mark Sullivan, Housing and Redevelopment Manager, at (650) 616-7053 or msullivan@sanbruno.ca.gov.

DEPARTMENTAL REORGANIZATION IMPLEMENTED

Reorganizing City departments is a major part of the 2008-09 budget—further increasing efficiencies, cutting administrative costs, and streamlining operations.

Sharing Fire Chief and Fire Battalion Chief services with the City of Millbrae is now an ongoing contractual arrangement. Consolidating the positions of the Library Services Director and Parks and Recreation Services Director into a single Community Services Director position eliminated one director position. Overall, the reorganization resulted in the elimination of 4.5 management positions, and annual savings of \$500,000. Not only has the reorganization resulted in significant cost savings to the City, but City



Manager Connie Jackson is pleased to introduce two highly qualified new directors who are now filling key positions in our newly restructured organization.



Klara Fabry was appointed Public Services Director last September. Ms. Fabry has previously worked in similar positions in other agencies, including Coconino County, Arizona, the City of Minneapolis, and the State of Washington. Randy Schwartz is the City's first Community Services Director. Mr. Schwartz worked for 23 years for the City of Burlingame, serving as the Director of Parks and Recreation for the last years, prior to his appointment in San Bruno.

ECONOMIC CRISIS

The global economic crisis has severely impacted City revenues and created a significant revenue/expenditure gap for the City of San Bruno. Acting quickly and decisively, the City Council has taken the necessary steps to resolve the General Fund budget imbalance affecting the current year. A hiring freeze, employee compensation freeze, deferrals of supply, equipment, and contract service expenditures, and deferral of several projects were recently implemented for the remainder of 2008-09.

A revenue/expenditure shortfall of over \$2,200,000 has been targeted by the City Council to be eliminated in the budget to become effective July 1. This is the most difficult fiscal challenge the City has faced in decades as it meets the City Council's directive for a balanced budget for the fiscal year 2009-10, without using reserve funds.

The City's budget—the General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Enterprise Funds, and Five-Year Capital Improvement Program Budget—is the annual fiscal plan for how the City responds to the municipal service need in the community given the level of tax revenue and other available resources. The General Fund supports the Library, Recreation, Street and Park Maintenance, and other basic services of the City—with over one-half of the Fund paying for Police and Fire services.

Looking forward, it will be necessary to closely monitor impacts on the City from the financial institution crisis, adverse mortgage and credit market, and other economic events. Home sales, home prices, retail sales, and employment are all

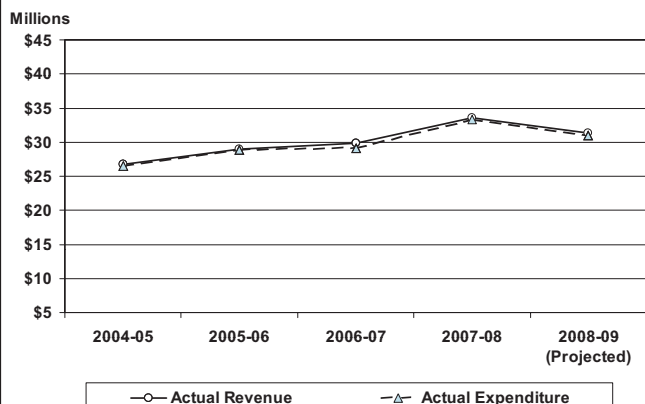


being negatively impacted by the nationwide economic downturn. The revenue/expenditure imbalance results from declining projected revenues, notably sales tax, interest earnings, and planning and building permit fees.

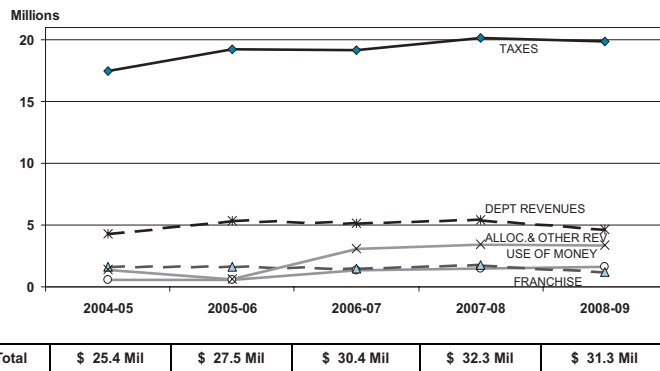
Enacting a General Fund expenditure reduction of over \$2,000,000 will adversely impact City services and the City workforce needed to provide the full range of municipal services. The 179 positions in the General Fund today are less than the number in 2003-04. In 2004-05, a total of 25 positions were eliminated. Going further back, City budgets from the late 1970's, thirty years ago, show a workforce in nearly all City departments equal to or less than the numbers budgeted this year—Police unchanged with 66 positions, Fire lower by 2.5 positions in 2008-09, and Finance, Library, and Park Maintenance each one position less compared to 1978-79.

In addition to the budget strategies for 2009-10 of a

5-Year Summary: General Fund Actual Revenue to Expenditure



5-Year General Fund Summary: Budgeted Revenue by Type



HITS CITY BUDGET



What does the Economic Crisis Mean for San Bruno?

- Home values are declining; foreclosures are up; property tax revenue is expected to decline.
- Auto dealers represent 12% of the City's total sales tax revenue. Sales are down 28% since 2007.
- City lost \$1.5 million due to Lehman Brothers' bankruptcy.
- The Shops at Tanforan is the City's single largest source of sales tax revenue, nearly 30% of the total. Sales tax receipts are declining.
- Hotel tax revenue has been declining for the past 3 months.

Recommended 2008-09 Budget Strategy Summary

- Immediate actions to reduce General Fund expenditures
 - Hiring freeze
 - Supplies, contract services, and operation cost reduction
- Employee compensation freeze through June 30, 2009
- Use of one-time revenues
- Deferral of projects and equipment purchases to maintain General Fund flexibility

Budget Strategies 2009-10: Responding to the Economic Crisis

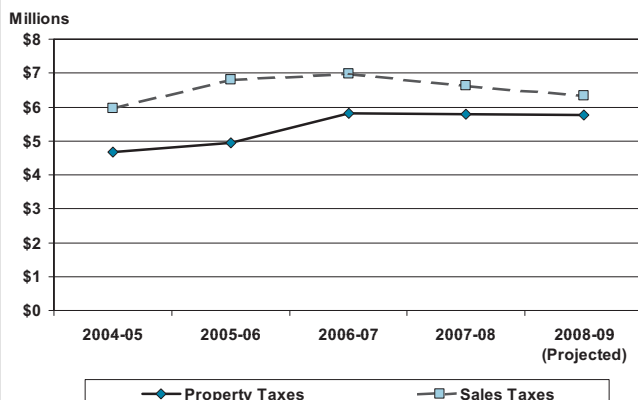
- Adopt balanced budget
- Balanced budget will not be achieved by use of reserves
- Develop policy for minimum reserve balance and use of reserves
- Freeze employee compensation through June 30, 2010
- Establish employee budget-working group to recommend budget and service reductions
- Evaluate strategies to increase revenues

balanced budget, without using reserve funds, the City Council agreed to the additional strategies:

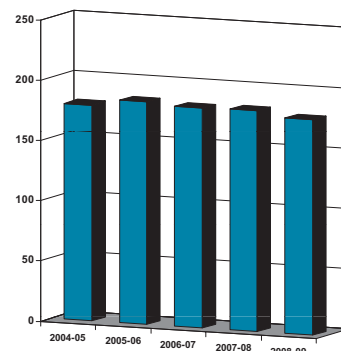
- Develop policy for minimum reserve balance and use of reserves.
- Extend freeze of employee compensation through June 2010.
- Establish employee budget-working group to suggest strategies to achieve a balanced budget.
- Evaluate options to increase revenues.

A special employee budget-working group has already been participating in meetings to help develop the 2009-10 City budget. This working group has taken on the task of suggesting revenue opportunities and budget reduction strategies in the magnitude that addresses the serious financial crisis. The overriding charge for this group is to offer suggestions for ways to reduce expenditures both globally across the organization and within departments.

5-Year General Fund Summary: Sales Tax & Property Tax



5-Year General Fund Summary: Personnel Summary



FOCUS on ... The Maple Pump Station

Unlike most cities on the Peninsula that buy all their water from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, San Bruno diversifies its supply by pumping about half of its water from local wells. Moving these two water sources up and around our steep hills requires a network of powerful water pumping stations that must remain in good condition. One of the most integral pieces of that distribution infrastructure—and one of the oldest operating stations—is the Maple Pump Station.

Construction of a new pump station began at the end of January 2008, and the bulk of the work was completed by early March. With the original pump station still in place, crews set about installing the new piping infrastructure and above-ground enclosure that better fits the surrounding neighborhood. Over the past several months, the new pumps, motors, and controls were installed and tested. By approximately mid-April, at the conclusion of a 30-day test period, during which the new pump station works alongside the existing station, crews will demolish the existing pump station and finish up the final landscaping features and other detail work. With new equipment and a more suitable building, the completely rehabilitated Maple Pump Station should last for 30 years or more.



WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITY RATE STUDY UNDER WAY

The rates that residents and businesses pay for their water and wastewater service covers a wide array of activity. Water rates cover the cost to distribute both water pumped from the City's wells and water obtained from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. The system delivers water to over 11,500 service connections through the City's elaborate network of pipes. Wastewater rates cover the costs to move sewage away from homes and businesses to the sewage treatment plant. Aside from these daily operational costs, the City must continually reinvest in the infrastructure of both systems to ensure that residents and businesses continue to receive service without interruption.

Periodically, the City undertakes a study to evaluate if the revenue received from the rates meets the total cost required to maintain and reinvest in the utility systems. As operating, maintenance, and repair costs rise over time and the infrastructure ages—the average age of San Bruno's water and

wastewater system is around 70 years old—this is reflected in the calculation of annual rate increases. The last study was completed in July 2006, after which the City Council adopted a three-year rate structure that went into effect in October 2006.

As the three-year period is coming to an end, the City is again in the process of conducting a new rate study to ensure that the City is meeting the needs of infrastructure rehabilitation and that the rates are apportioned fairly to water and wastewater customers. Even though the City works diligently to keep our operation as efficient as possible, the age of our infrastructure will likely require additional investment. Should the City Council determine a rate change necessary, a notice of any proposed change will be sent to each ratepayer. Information about the results of the study will be available through this publication and the City website at www.sanbruno.ca.gov.

FREE 2 ALL

Andrew Carnegie was a poor Scottish boy when he came to the United States in 1848. His first job at age 13 was as a bobbin boy, changing spools of thread in a cotton mill twelve hours a day, six days a week. His wages were \$1.25 per week, plus another 80 cents for firing the furnace. Despite his background and the discrimination he faced as an immigrant, he built an industrial steel empire. When he retired and sold his business in 1901, he was one of the richest men in the world, worth the equivalent of \$297 billion dollars. He was also responsible for founding almost 1,700 public libraries in the United States. His contribution to libraries was so great that he is often referred to as the patron saint of libraries.

Carnegie believed that America was a society where anyone who was smart, worked hard, and had a little luck could be successful. And he believed that free libraries provided the best way for anyone, of any social status, to become educated and achieve the American Dream.

In today's tough times, Carnegie's legacy is more important than ever. Public libraries everywhere are proving to be a key component in helping communities through the recession, and if you haven't visited one recently, you are most likely in the minority.

In a recent MSNBC segment in December 2008, correspondent Chris Jansing reported "The library business is booming. The economic downturn has made libraries wildly popular." She goes on to say that more Americans have library cards now than at any other time in history. Library usage has skyrocketed into the double digits. The San Bruno Public Library hasn't been immune to this trend. Over the last three years, Library circulation rose 21%, and 2008 was the Library's busiest year ever.

Many of you who haven't visited a library recently (and perhaps aren't big readers) might be under the impression that there isn't much here for you, but did you know that the Library lends the latest releases on DVD and CD? Or how about the online tutoring service we offer to San Bruno students and adult learners? Also factor in the latest bestsellers, downloadable audiobooks, storytimes and children's events, Internet, and wireless access. Not to mention that residents can borrow and return items at any library in San Mateo County. And all of this is available free of cost to our residents.

Times are tough, and none of us has been spared from economic troubles. Whether it is the falling value of our home, the loss of a job, or just the fear of these things happening, we have all been touched in some way by the economy. We are proud that the San Bruno Public Library can be a part of the solution by providing access to valuable information and resources for our community.

free2
All
@ your library

One other interesting fact about Carnegie: after he retired, he gave away almost 90% of his wealth. But when he gave the money to build libraries, he required cities to set aside at least 10% of the building cost for ongoing annual operations of the facility. Carnegie was not only a philanthropist, but he believed that everyone needed to do their part for the venture to be a success. The people of San Bruno are a lot like Andrew Carnegie. They are good neighbors, they are hardworking, and they don't give up easily. They prefer a helping hand to a handout. It is this spirit that will carry us through these times and enable us to use them as an opportunity to strengthen our sense of community. There is an inscription etched into the back wall of the San Bruno Library, and after 54 years, its simple words still ring true: "Here is knowledge for all."

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Be a Love Bug, Not a Litter Bug!

If you're tired of seeing litter in the streets and would like to be a part of the solution, join us for Operation Clean Sweep, on Saturday, May 2, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. in San Bruno City Park.

Operation Clean Sweep is a partnership between the City of San Bruno and San Bruno Garbage Company and for over ten years has helped keep San Bruno clean.

Last year, over 200 volunteers joined forces to pick up 2,800 pounds of litter and debris and 225 pounds of recycling. Volunteers also helped with special projects, like painting the garbage cans along San Mateo Avenue and planting flowers.

Operation Clean Sweep is a great way to spend the day with family, friends, and neighbors, while also helping to beautify San Bruno. All volunteers will receive a free gift and be treated to an appreciation lunch, provided by San Bruno Garbage Company.

For more information, please call the San Bruno Beautification Task Force Hotline at (650) 616-7145. To volunteer, register online at www.sanbruno.ca.gov.



Frequently Called Numbers (Area Code 650)

Building Permits	616-7076
Business Taxes & Licenses	616-7083
Cable TV	616-3100
City Clerk	616-7058
City Council	616-7060
City Manager	616-7056
Code Enforcement	616-7074
Finance	616-7080
Fire - Business	616-7096
Graffiti Hotline	616-7141
Human Resources	616-7055
Library	616-7078
Recreation	616-7180
Parks	616-7195
Planning	616-7074
Police - Business	616-7100
Public Works/Corp. Yard	616-7160
Public Works/Engineering	616-7065
Senior Center	616-7150
Streets	616-7161
Utility Billing	616-7086
EMERGENCY	9 1 1